

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants have carefully considered the Office Action of June 26, 2008. Claims 1-48 were pending, of which claims 12, 23, 24, and 28-48 were withdrawn from consideration and claims 1-11, 13-22, and 25-27 were been rejected. Favorable consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

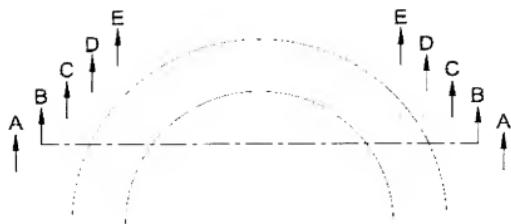
Claim Amendments

Claims 1-48 have been cancelled, without conceding the merits of the rejections. As such, as current rejections are moot. The art cited in the § 102 and § 103 rejections will be discussed in light of the new claims.

Claims 49-60 have been added. These claims correspond to the species elected in the November 26, 2007 supplemental response to the restriction/election requirement of September 28, 2007.

Applicants also submit that no new matter has been introduced. Support for the new claims may be found, for example, in Figure 1a and in the associated sections of the specification.

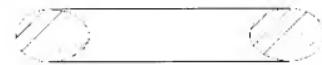
The following figures may help in understanding the new claims. The distal end of Figure 1a is a wire formed into a half-circle arc. Any wire of uniform profile formed into such a shape will have a cross-sectional area, perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the catheter, that increases and then decreases. This is illustrated with respect to a round wire, going from section AA through sections BB and CC to a cross-sectional maximum at section DD, after which the cross-sectional area starts to decrease again as shown with section EE. The wire section shown in the figures is rotated 90 degrees counterclockwise as compared to distal device 304 in Figure 1a.



Section A-A



Section B-B



Section C-C



Section D-D



Section E-E

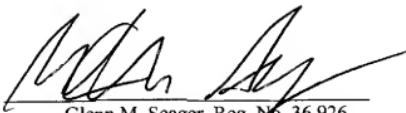
Cited Art

Dubrul et al., US Pub No 2002/0019597, White, WO 01/97697, Uflacker et al., US Patent No 5,243,997, Kurz et al., US Patent No 6,696,504, Bates et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,224,612, Brisken, US Patent No 5,728,062, Graves et al., US Patent No 5,522,819, and Wilk et al., US Patent No 5,417,697 were cited in § 102 and § 103 rejections against the now pending claims. None of this art discloses all the features of the claimed invention. For example, none discloses a catheter attached to a vacuum source that has a wire at least partially disposed therein.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is anticipated. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 07/15/08



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